

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all previous versions and listings of claims:

1. (currently amended) A system for managing parts requirements processes in an engineering environment, comprising:

~~an enterprise system including:~~

a server in communication with a workstation over a network, the workstation executing a design tool application;

~~— a workstation;~~

~~— a server;~~

~~a network connection for allowing said workstation and said server to communicate; and~~

~~— a storage device coupled to said workstation;~~

~~wherein said enterprise system is executing a bill of material assist application executing on at least one of the server and the workstation for managing said parts requirements processes, the bill of material assist application performing:~~

receiving a bill of material including a list of component parts in response to a product design conducted on the workstation;

mapping each component part in the list to corresponding part selection process information, the corresponding part selection process information acquired from the plurality of external sources; and

generating a summary resulting from the mapping;

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wherein for each of the component parts in the list, the
corresponding part selection process information includes at least one of:

a lead time;

a current supply status;

at least one supply source;

a cost;

an end-of-life data; and

a preferredness rating.

2. (currently amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising at least one
storage device in communication with the server, the at least one storage device housing:

a database of parts information.

3. (currently amended) The system of claim 12, wherein the at least one storage
device further houses comprising:

a database of procurement information relating to the review, approval, and
purchase of bill of material components.

4. (currently amended) The system of claim 21, wherein the at least one storage
device further houses comprising:

a database of computer aided drafting information relating to product designs.

5. (currently amended) The system of claim 12, wherein the at least one storage
device further houses comprising:

a database of approved vendors lists.

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6. (currently amended) The system of claim 21, wherein the at least one storage device further comprises:

a database of bill of material files.

7. (currently amended) The system of claim 2, wherein said database of parts information is commercially provided by one of said plurality of external sources; and wherein ~~said database of parts information~~ is accessible to the server over the network ~~said enterprise system by a communications link~~.

8. (currently amended) The system of claim 3, wherein said database of procurement information is commercially provided by one of said plurality of external sources; and wherein ~~said database of procurement information~~ is accessible to the server over the network ~~said enterprise system by a communications link~~.

9. (currently amended) The system of claim 4, wherein said database of computer aided drafting information is commercially provided by one of said plurality of external sources; and wherein ~~said database of computer aided drafting information~~ is accessible to the server over the network ~~said enterprise system by a communications link~~.

10. (canceled)

11. (currently amended) The method of claim 1034, further comprising modifying said component parts data on said bill of material ~~by said user in response to reviewing said summary results of said correlating said information~~.

12. (currently amended) The method of claim 3410, wherein the corresponding part selection process information further comprises:

generating an approved vendor list indicating approved sources of component supply for items on said bill of material; and wherein the summary includes approved vendors operable for determining

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~~_____ comparing approved vendors on said approved vendor list for alternative sources of said component supply.~~

13. (currently amended) The method of claim 12, further comprising modifying said bill of material list-based upon said approved vendors in said summary ~~comparing.~~

14. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~11~~10, further comprising transferring a modified said bill of material list-to relevant entities for review or approval.

15. (currently amended) The method of claim 14, further comprising modifying said bill of material list-based upon said review or said approval.

16. (canceled)

17. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~34~~10, wherein said mapping each component part in the list is performed by importing said component parts data to said bill of material assist application is performed manually by said user.

_____ importing component parts data listed on the bill of material to a bill of material assist application, the bill of material assist application including associated data fields for receiving the component parts data; and

_____ importing the corresponding part selection process information to the bill of material assist application, the bill of material assist application including associated data fields for receiving the corresponding part selection process information.

18. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~34~~10, wherein said importing said component parts data to said bill of material assist application is performed electronically via said bill of material assist application whereby said component parts data is stored in a database accessed by said user.

19. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~34~~10, wherein said plurality of sources include:

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at least one parts database;

at least one procurement database;

at least one computer aided drafting database;

at least one approved vendors database; and

external supplier databases.

20. (canceled)

21. (currently amended) The method of claim 3420, wherein the corresponding part selection process information further comprisesing data pertaining to:

map flags;

life cycles;

duplicate local part numbers;

local part numbers;

part descriptions;

leaf class description;

messages;

supplier names;

supplier part numbers;

alternative local part numbers;

quantities;

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data providers;
engineering changes;
engineering statuses;
technical usage codes;
engineers names;
supply statuses;
restricted usage codes;
end of life dates;
lead times;
part sourcing statuses;
reference designators;
commodities; and
comments desired by a system user.

22. (canceled)

23. (currently amended) The storage medium of claim 3522, further comprising instructions for causing ~~the~~ a computer to implement:

modifying said component parts data on said bill of material ~~by said user in response to reviewing said summary results of said correlating said information.~~

24. (currently amended) The storage medium of claim 3522, wherein the corresponding part selection process information further comprising ~~instructions for~~

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~~causing a computer to implement:~~

~~— generating an approved vendor list indicating approved sources of component supply for items on said bill of material; and~~

~~— wherein the summary includes approved vendors operable for determining comparing approved vendors on said approved vendor list for alternative sources of said component supply.~~

25. (currently amended) The storage medium of claim 24, further comprising instructions for causing the computer to implement:

modifying said bill of material ~~list~~ based upon said approved vendors in said summary ~~comparing~~.

26. (currently amended) The storage medium of claim 2322, further comprising instructions for causing the computer to implement:

transferring a modified ~~said~~ bill of material ~~list~~ to relevant entities for review or approval.

27. (currently amended) The storage medium of claim 26, further comprising instructions for causing the computer to implement:

modifying said bill of material ~~list~~ based upon said review or said approval.

28. (canceled)

29. (currently amended) The storage medium of claim 3522, wherein said mapping each component part in the list is performed by importing said component parts data to said bill of material ~~assist application is performed manually by said user~~

importing component parts data listed on the bill of material to a bill of material

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assist application, the bill of material assist application including associated data fields for receiving the component parts data; and

importing the corresponding part selection process information to the bill of material assist application, the bill of material assist application including associated data fields for receiving the corresponding part selection process information.

30. (currently amended) The storage medium of claim 3522, wherein said importing said component parts data to said bill of material assist application is performed electronically via said ~~bill of material assist application~~ whereby said component parts data is stored in a database ~~accessed by said user~~.

31. (currently amended) The storage medium of claim 3522, wherein said plurality of sources include:

at least one parts database;

at least one procurement database;

at least one computer aided drafting database;

at least one approved vendors database; and

external supplier databases.

32. (canceled)

33. (currently amended) The storage medium of claim 3522, ~~wherein the corresponding part selection process information further comprises~~ instructions for causing a computer to implement providing data pertaining to:

map flags;

life cycles;

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duplicate local part numbers;
local part numbers;
part descriptions;
leaf class description;
messages;
supplier names;
supplier part numbers;
alternative local part numbers;
quantities;
data providers;
engineering changes;
engineering statuses;
technical usage codes;
engineers names;
supply statuses;
restricted usage codes;
end of life dates;
lead times;

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part sourcing statuses;

reference designators;

commodities; and

comments desired by a system user.

34. (new) A method for managing parts requirements processes in an engineering environment, comprising:

receiving a bill of material including a list of component parts in response to a product design conducted on the workstation;

mapping each component part in the list to corresponding part selection process information, the corresponding part selection process information acquired from the plurality of external sources; and

generating a summary resulting from the mapping;

wherein for each of the component parts in the list, the corresponding part selection process information includes at least one of:

a lead time;

a current supply status;

at least one supply source;

a cost;

an end-of-life data; and

a preferredness rating.

35. (new) A storage medium encoded with machine-readable program code for managing parts requirements processes in an engineering environment, the program code including instructions for causing a computer to implement a method, comprising:

receiving a bill of material including a list of component parts in response to a product design conducted on the workstation;

mapping each component part in the list to corresponding part selection process information, the corresponding part selection process information acquired from the plurality of external sources; and

generating a summary resulting from the mapping;

wherein for each of the component parts in the list, the corresponding part selection process information includes at least one of:

a lead time;

a current supply status;

at least one supply source;

a cost;

an end-of-life data; and

a preferredness rating.